

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 15
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H15-PCS10459-TC-65

Short Title: Educ. Software/SWD Tuition.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

January 29, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO USE FUNDS TO ENTER INTO A STATEWIDE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO AMEND THE PROCESS FOR TUITION ENDORSEMENTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. S.L. 2015-241 is amended by adding a new section to read:

"SECTION 8.49. The Department of Public Instruction may use funds appropriated to the Department for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years to (i) enter into a statewide cooperative purchasing agreement to provide office productivity software for students, teachers, and other staff of North Carolina public schools, including charter schools, and (ii) provide technical support and professional development on the use of the software."

SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-112.6(b1)(1), as enacted by Section 11.11(a) of S.L. 2015-241, reads as rewritten:

~~"(1) Scholarship endorsement for tuition. The Authority shall remit, at least two times each school year, scholarship funds awarded to eligible students for endorsement by at least one of the student's parents or guardians for tuition to attend (i) a North Carolina public school other than the public school to which that student has been assigned as provided in G.S. 115C 366 or (ii) a nonpublic school that meets the requirements of Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of this Chapter as identified by the Department of Administration, Division of Nonpublic Education. Scholarship funds shall not be provided for tuition for home schooled students. If the student is attending a nonpublic school, the school must be deemed eligible by the Division of Nonpublic Education, pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.4, and the school shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 115C 562.5. The parent or guardian shall restrictively endorse the scholarship funds awarded to the eligible student to the school for deposit into the account of the school. The parent or guardian shall not designate any entity or individual associated with the school as the parent's attorney in fact to endorse the scholarship funds but shall endorse the scholarship funds in person at the site of the school. A parent's or guardian's failure to comply with this section shall result in forfeiture of the scholarship funds. A scholarship forfeited for failure to comply with this section shall be returned to the Authority to be awarded to another student.~~



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(1) Tuition endorsements and reimbursements. – The Authority shall disburse scholarship funds for tuition for eligible students awarded pursuant to this section as provided in this subdivision. The method of disbursement varies based on the criteria satisfied by the school. Scholarship funds shall not be provided for tuition for home-schooled students. The two methods for the disbursement of scholarship funds follow:

a. Scholarship endorsement for tuition. – The Authority shall remit, at least two times each school year, scholarship funds awarded to eligible students for endorsement by at least one of the student's parents or guardians for tuition to attend a nonpublic school that meets the requirements of Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of this Chapter as identified by the Department of Administration, Division of Nonpublic Education. The nonpublic school must be deemed eligible by the Division of Nonpublic Education, pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.4, and the school shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 115C-562.5. The parent or guardian shall restrictively endorse the scholarship funds awarded to the eligible student to the school for deposit into the account of the school. The parent or guardian shall not designate any entity or individual associated with the school as the parent's attorney-in-fact to endorse the scholarship funds but shall endorse the scholarship funds in person at the site of the school. A parent's or guardian's failure to comply with this section shall result in forfeiture of the scholarship funds. A scholarship forfeited for failure to comply with this section shall be returned to the Authority to be awarded to another student.

b. Reimbursement for tuition. – The parent or guardian of an eligible student who enrolls in a school that is (i) a North Carolina public school other than the public school to which that student has been assigned as provided in G.S. 115C-366 or (ii) a nonpublic school that meets the requirements of Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of this Chapter as identified by the Department of Administration, Division of Nonpublic Education, that is deemed eligible by the Division of Nonpublic Education and is not subject to G.S. 115C-562.5 shall pay the tuition directly to the school. The Authority shall reimburse the parent or guardian no sooner than the mid-point of each semester. A parent or guardian may receive reimbursement for tuition if the parent or guardian provides documentation that the student was enrolled pursuant to clause (i) or (ii) of this sub-subdivision. An enrollment of less than 75 days of the semester will be subject to a pro rata reimbursement."

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2015. Section 2 of this act applies to scholarships awarded for the 2015-2016 school year and each subsequent school year.